

Anthropology & Sociology

at Centre College

Anthropology asks, what shapes us as humans? How does human evolution intersect with culture? How are we similar to and different from other creatures? Sociology asks, how does social structure shape culture? How do we achieve social control? What is the relationship between nature and nurture in patterns of social interaction? Both disciplines ask what it means to be human.

Anthropology and sociology bridge the gap between life sciences and humanities, revealing the biocultural and sociocultural nature of so much of human experience. They provide a unifying framework for understanding the totality of the human condition and our responsibility for service in a global society.

The Major

The Anthropology and Sociology Program is at the forefront of interdisciplinary development at Centre. We offer students a range of choices in planning their interdisciplinary anthropology/sociology major. The program includes a set of core courses in anthropological and sociological research methods and theoretical perspectives, culminating in an advanced seminar. Additionally, majors are able to design the primary portion of their major according to their specific interests, with the possibilities ranging from concentrations in archaeology, ecological anthropology, cultural anthropology, social stratification, sociology of family, sociology of religion, social psychology, sociology of law, and criminology. We also offer individualized minors in anthropology and sociology.

World-Wide, Off-Campus Study

Centre has several important campus facilities for studying anthropology and sociology. Our Social Science Laboratory includes the major statistical software and an extensive archive of real cross-cultural, national, and international dataset. There is a Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing mini-lab. The program

maintains a growing collection of fossil hominid and comparative casts.

Many of Centre's study-abroad and internship opportunities relate directly to anthropology and sociology. We routinely offer on-site field and academic courses that focus on archaeology and ethnology in the old world and in Mesoamerica, or concentrating on cultural history, art and culture, or comparative social structure in London or Strasbourg, France. CentreTerm courses have given our students opportunities to travel and study on site in Australia, Ecuador, Indonesia, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, Samoa, South Africa, and Spain.

Anthropology and sociology majors and minors have completed collaborative research with faculty in a variety of settings. The sites and subjects have included the Yucatan peninsula and the Chiapan highlands of Mexico; the primate center at the Louisville Zoo; a women's prison in Ecuador; Natal province in South Africa; an archaeological dig at Sepphoris, in Israel; rural and urban sites in Cuba, Ecuador, Spain, Portugal, and Morocco; as well as studies in the United States of social class in family life, the Presbyterian Church, Centre College itself, and an annual Theory Camp. Many of the faculty-student collaborations have resulted in major research papers, and much of the work has led to national and regional presentations and publications.



Olivia Fitzpatrick
Centre Class of 2010
Anthropology/Sociology Major

"With an intentional focus on collaborative research and independent study, the anthropology and sociology program at Centre succeeds at bringing out the best in students, while pushing them to build on their strengths."

Internships

Our students have participated in a variety of internships for academic credit that have enhanced their experience and future employability. Student internships have included research assistantships at Texas Archeological Research labs, and positions with Kentucky Educational Television, a forensic anthropology office, a hospice facility, Kentucky School for the Deaf, and curatorial as well as field work for survey archeological firms.

Careers

Our joint program in anthropology and sociology provides students with a strong foundation in the liberal arts. The program encourages students to examine their social worlds more critically, and it offers students theoretical and methodological tools for examining their world.

Students from our program have gone on in a variety of graduate programs and careers. Current anthropology and sociology graduates are in master's and doctoral programs in anthropology, sociology, social psychology, criminology, ancient religions, clinical psychology, social work, public health, family studies, school psychology, journalism, and law enforcement, as well as in law and medical schools. Recent graduates have jobs in social work, university teaching, secondary and elementary school teaching, museum work, law, computer services, advertising, market research, counseling psychology, dentistry, medicine, retailing, fine arts, and both local and federal government agencies, including the F.B.I.

Faculty

ANDREA ABRAMS, Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology (Ph.D., Emory University, anthropology). Abrams' ethnographic research has focused on Afrocentrism, middle classness, feminist and womanist principles, American identity and race. Her current research interests include constructions of racial identity with particular attention to whiteness and blackness, the intersections of gender and national identity, and the application of anthropological insight in the non-profit and service sphere.

SARAH D. GOODRUM, Assistant Professor of Sociology (Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin, sociology). Goodrum's teaching and research interests include criminology, sociology of law, sociology of emotions, and research methods. She has had articles published in *Sociological Inquiry* and *Sociological Focus*. Her recent research, funded by a grant from the National Institute of Justice, examined management by criminal justice workers of their and victims' sadness with a focus on a particular group of victims, people who had lost a loved one to murder.

A. ENDRE NYERGES, Professor of Anthropology (Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, anthropology). He has extensive field experience conducting ethnographic and ecological research in Africa and the Middle East, and has worked with the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and remote sensing analysis of environmental change in western Africa with National Science Foundation funding. His interests include sub-Saharan Africa, ecological anthropology, environmental change monitoring, tropical deforestation, human evolution, and brain anatomy and evolution.

PHYLLIS PASSARIELLO, Matton Professor of Anthropology (Ph.D., University of California-Berkeley). Her current professional interests include the anthropology of development, semiotics, and the anthropology of tourism and pilgrimage. Her recent field studies have continued in Mesoamerica, South America, and Italy, and have included a student trip to study the cultures of Western Samoa, Fiji, and Tonga. Much of her field research is shared collaboratively with students.

WILLIAM "BEAU" WESTON, Van Winkle Professor of Sociology (Ph.D., Yale University). His current professional interests include the sociology of religion, social theory, sociology of family life, and social stratification. He has international field experience in South Africa and London, as well as extensive collaborative and survey research in the sociology of religion and comparative denominational religion, especially on the Presbyterian Church.



For further information about anthropology/sociology at Centre, write, call, or e-mail

Beau Weston, program chair
600 West Walnut Street
Danville, Kentucky 40422
(859) 238-8789
beau.weston@centre.edu

Anthropology/Sociology Web page

www.centre.edu/web/academic/majors/anthro.html

To communicate directly with a Centre student majoring in anthropology/sociology, e-mail

emily.perrin@centre.edu

For general information about Centre, contact

Admission Office

1-800-423-6236

admission@centre.edu

www.centre.edu